

The Urban League of Hudson County is an organization that has stood for human advancement and achievement, and has worked tirelessly to develop and revitalize our urban areas. Its work has given hope and fortune to so many who call the inner city their home.

Project Reclaim is an Urban League initiative created for the redevelopment of the twenty-six block radius of Martin Luther King Drive in the Ward F community of Jersey City. The new headquarters building is a cornerstone of the Urban League's plan to initiate an economic and social renaissance in this community. And with the community's participation, this renaissance will be a lasting and inspiring model for the country.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Urban League of Hudson County for providing hope to countless families, and for believing in America by investing and revitalizing our urban areas, when others turned their backs on our cities. The Urban League's accomplishments have paved the way for prosperous and healthy communities throughout New Jersey.

CONGRATULATING THE WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. RADONOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Westlands Water District of Huron, CA, on the occasion of celebrating 50 years of dedication and service to the communities of the San Joaquin Valley of California on Sunday, November 17, 2002. The 50th anniversary celebration will take place at Harris Ranch in Coalinga, CA.

Farming in the Westlands Water District began during California's Gold Rush era. The first significant irrigation in the Westlands area began about 1915 with the drilling of deep wells by individual operators on large acreages. In 1942, the Westside Landowners Association was established to urge and help finance studies on the feasibility of developing and constructing water supply systems to serve the west side. In 1952, the owners of 400,000 acres of westside land petitioned the Fresno County Board of Supervisors for the formation of the water district. On September 8, 1952, the Westlands Water District was formed.

Westlands is one of the largest agricultural water districts in the United States, with more than 570,000 irrigated acres of diversified crops on some of the most productive soil in the world. Westlands provides water to nearly 600 family-owned farms that average 850 acres in size. Farms within Westlands produce approximately \$1 billion worth of food and fiber per year. This translates into \$3.5 billion in farm related economic activity, nearly one-third of the \$12.5 billion generated by the agriculture-based economy of Fresno County. In addition to food and fiber, Westlands farmers produce jobs, taxes, and strong economic core for the regional economy.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate the Westlands Water District of Central California on the occasion of their 50th year anniversary. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Westlands Water District many years of continued success.

HONORING DR. MARTIN EICHELBERGER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Martin Eichelberger is a Professor of Surgery and of Pediatrics at George Washington University and Director of Emergency Trauma and Burn Service at the Children's National Medical Center, in Washington, DC. He is also president and cofounder of the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, and a nationally recognized pediatric trauma surgeon.

The reason Dr. Eichelberger is so highly regarded became evident on Monday, October 7, when he was called out of a skin graft surgery to begin preparing for a 13-year-old shooting victim who was on his way to Children's Hospital from the Bowie Health Center. The boy had been shot by the Washington-area snipers in front of Benjamin Tasker Middle School, and the dozens of fragments from the sniper's bullet had done extensive and life-threatening damage to a number of the boy's vital organs.

Dr. Eichelberger and his team immediately began to make critical decisions about which organs could be saved, and which ones were beyond repair and needed to be removed. The right decisions were made, and the two and a half hour operation saved the boy's life. Although this brave young man faces a long and challenging road to recovery, I am pleased to report that he has been released from the hospital, and I am hopeful that he will in fact make a full recovery from his injuries.

Mr. Speaker, this 13-year-old young man is one of the countless youngsters who have been touched by the gifts of Mr. Eichelberger and whose lives have been saved or made better by his compassionate dedication to public service. The 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that "Mankind owes to the child the best it has to give." I am proud to say that in Dr. Eichelberger, we have given Washington area youngsters the best we have.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF DUNCAN A. HOLADAY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Duncan Holaday upon his retirement after 35 years of devoted service in support of our great Nation. His last position was with the Department of the Navy, where he served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Facilities.

Mr. Holaday was born on February 15, 1943 in Berkeley, CA. He graduated from Beloit College in 1965 with a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy. In 1976, he received a master of business administration degree from Syracuse University.

Mr. Holaday began his Government service with the U.S. Army in 1967 as a management intern. Following completion of his training, he

spent the next 15 years as an operations research analyst with the Army, serving both in the Pentagon and in Europe as well as with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Program Analysis and Evaluation. While in this position at OSD, Mr. Holaday was responsible for analyzing Army and Marine Corps force structure, force basing, military construction, and manpower requirements.

From 1982 to 1987, Mr. Holaday served as a director in the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Installations. It was there that he implemented the Model Installation Program, which was a highly successful test of the proposition that base commanders could do a better job of running their bases when freed of restraints imposed by headquarters. While at OSD, he also developed and implemented DOD-wide real property and base utilization policies.

He later served as the Director of the Defense Acquisition Regulatory System under the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition between 1987 and 1990. From 1990 to early 1993, he was the Executive Director of the Defense Ethics Council.

After leaving the Office of the Secretary of Defense in April 1993 and before joining the Department of the Navy in 1994, Mr. Holaday worked with then Vice President Al Gore on the National Performance Review, NPR. There, he was responsible for improving real property acquisition and management within the Federal Government and oversaw government-wide implementation of NPR recommendations for downsizing and streamlining the Federal workforce.

In October, 1994, he was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Installations and Facilities. As the Deputy Assistant Secretary, he was responsible for establishing policy and improving oversight on the Department of the Navy's acquisition, construction, use, management, operation, and disposal of real estate, facilities, and housing at Navy and Marine Corps bases worldwide.

During the transition in administrations, between January and August, 2001, he served as the Senior Civilian Official in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment. As Senior Civilian Official, he was directly responsible to the Secretary of the Navy for the formulation of Department-wide policies and procedures, and for overseeing all Department of the Navy functions and programs relating to environmental protection; Navy and Marine Corps facilities and installations; housing; long-range basing and infrastructure requirements; and safety and occupational health for military and civilian personnel. In this role, he provided stability and continuity during the absence of three presidentially-appointed political appointees.

His accomplishments throughout his career, and especially while serving in the Department of the Navy, are extraordinary. He has worked tirelessly to promote investment in the facilities where sailors and marines live, work, and train. He was at the forefront of the Department's efforts to improve military family housing through the innovative use of privatization authorities allowing partnership with the private sector. During his stewardship, the Department of the Navy was able to realize over \$600 million in investment in Navy and Marine Corps family housing, using only slightly over \$100 million of its own resources.

To every problem and challenge he has faced, he has brought keen insight and attention to detail that has enabled thoughtful solutions. He demonstrated extraordinary environmental stewardship in successfully shepherding the transfer of land on the western end of Vieques within the timeframes specified by law. He has successfully engaged in the extremely complicated task of negotiations and agreements, allowing the Department to convey base closure property for redevelopment by local communities.

Mr. Holaday has left a remarkable legacy. The hallmark of his service, throughout his career, has been improved living and working conditions for the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who serve our country so bravely, day after day. He has been steadfast in his service to this great nation and his devotion to those with whom he has served. His superb performance has won him countless awards, including the Distinguished Civilian Service Award in 2001. His leadership will be sorely missed. I for one am extremely grateful that he chose to enter public service.

I wish to recognize and thank him for his honorable service and would like to join with his many friends and colleagues, both within the executive branch and here in Congress, in wishing him fair winds and following seas as he and his wife, Mary Margaret, and son, Duncan, continue forward in what most assuredly will remain a life of service to this great Nation.

IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH HIRD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most generous and giving community members I have had the pleasure of knowing. In life, Elizabeth Hird was beloved by all of those whose lives she touched—a true community treasure.

An artist, community leader and active conservationist, Elizabeth was a pioneer in the local efforts for environmental preservation and education—dedicating her time and energies to ensure that our natural resources would be protected for future generations to enjoy. A founding member, and later, director and president of the Killingworth Land Conservation Trust, Elizabeth worked hard to make the public aware of all nature could teach them. She was instrumental in the creation of the Platt Nature Center for environmental education which offers programs throughout the summer to young children. Through these programs, children are able to participate in a variety of activities where they learn to identify the wild flowers and wild life of the area. At part of the last days activities, children were invited to Outer Island, one of the Thimble Islands off the Connecticut coastline, where Elizabeth and her late husband, Basil Rauch, owned a home. Elizabeth hosted the event and children were encouraged to explore the island and the many creatures which call the island home. A unique experience for so many, children of all ages looked forward to this special opportunity.

In 1995, in honor of her husband, Elizabeth donated Outer Island to the United States Fish

and Wildlife Service to become an environmental research and education center and part of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. Today, students of all ages, from elementary to graduate school, have access to the island and the endless lessons it provides. It was just over one year ago that I joined Elizabeth to announce the establishment of the Outer Island Endowment Fund—a renewed commitment to the preservation of Outer Island, its diverse wildlife, and educational opportunities for our community's young people. In speaking to Elizabeth that day, I knew that her dream for Outer Island had been realized and I was proud to join in the celebration of her vision.

I am honored to stand today in memory of Elizabeth Hird and express my deepest thanks and appreciation for all that she has given to our community. Elizabeth was truly a unique individual who has left an indelible mark on our community. Hers is a legacy which will continue to inspire many for generations to come.

IN HONOR OF THE SOCIETY OF HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers as it hosted the 15th Annual Eastern Technical and Career Conference (ETCC), which was held November 1–3, 2002, at the Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Despite the many advancements made by Hispanics in the fields of engineering and science, we must continue to ensure equality in the work force for all Americans. The ETCC has made this its focus and, since 1987, has been promoting academic excellence, professional growth, technical opportunities, and the development of ties and connections among Hispanic professionals. These valuable networking opportunities for students and professionals are necessary to promote and provide for a more just work environment.

The second largest Hispanic student engineering conference in the nation, the ETCC attracts over 50 universities along the East Coast. This year, the ETCC is expecting 1,200 Latino college students majoring in math, science, and engineering, and 300 professionals and corporate representatives from Fortune 500 companies to attend.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 15th Annual Eastern Technical and Career Conference hosted by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. New Jersey is fortunate to have organizations that provide opportunities for students and professionals to explore what being Hispanic and being a professional can mean. My best wishes for a successful conference.

HONORING SPECIAL AGENT LOUIS PAUL RUSSO

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished FBI agent from the Bureau's Detroit Division on the occasion of his retirement. On June 28, 1971 Louis Paul Russo entered on duty as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. On October 1, 1971 SA Russo reported to the Detroit Division. Director J. Edgar Hoover transferred SAA Russo from Detroit, to the Lansing Resident Agency beginning January 11, 1972. On December 21, 1972 SA Russo was transferred to the Cincinnati Division. SA Russo served in Cincinnati for over 16 years before he was reassigned to Detroit arriving on October 2, 1989.

SA Russo successfully worked a broad spectrum of cases including, Bank Robberies, Civil Rights, Auto Theft, Labor Violations, Fugitives, Counter Intelligence, and Organized Crime. Agent Russo spent his entire career as what is commonly called a "street agent." Street agents are the agents that solve the cases, make our neighborhoods safe, and protect these United States from our enemies; foreign and domestic, all at a great personal sacrifice to themselves and their families.

I am aware from Agent Russo's co-workers that right up to his last days "on the rolls", Special Agent Russo came to work early, poured over his files, "hit the streets" and got the job done. After September 11, 2001 SA Russo, while attending to his other cases, enthusiastically reengineered himself to transition with the Bureau in their new focus on the investigation of Terrorism, all with more energy and sense of purpose than most agents 30 years younger than he.

I have heard him affectionately referred to as a "one man squad". Agent Russo was always going above and beyond. I am aware of an instance where Agents on the organized crime squad in Detroit where assigned to fan out across the Motor City looking for evidence of construction equipment thefts that had allegedly occurred many years earlier; all to verify the credibility of a witness. They were only looking for evidence that such thefts had been reported; so many years had gone by, any leads were certain to be cold. The agents one by one returned at the end of the day with the various proofs that these pieces of equipment had in fact been reported stolen. Agent Russo also came back to the office with police reports to verify the long ago reported thefts and with a backhoe and other heavy equipment in tow, he had not only verified the thefts, he had recovered the stolen property. SA Russo has received letters of commendation from every Director that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has ever had. SA Russo consistently received top job performance reviews and he has garnered many letters of appreciation from Assistant United States Attorneys. Most importantly, SA Russo has earned and kept the respect of every agent he has ever served with. He has diligently protected the citizens of the great State of Michigan and the citizens of this great nation with enthusiasm, dedication and pride.